

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the non-final Office Action dated December 12, 2007. Claims 51 and 54 to 57 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 18, 28, and 38 have been amended and claims 58 to 62 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims may be found throughout Applicants' specification, for example, at paragraphs [0029] to [0045] referring to FIG. 3, paragraph [0050], and paragraphs [0065] to [0070] referring to FIG. 6. Claims 1 to 7, 9 to 24, 26 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 38 to 45, 47 to 50, 52, 53, and 58 to 62 remain in the application, of which claims 1, 18, 28, and 38 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Examiner Zhen's indication that claims 3, 4, 9, 20, 21, 26, 34, 41, 42, and 47 recite allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. In addition, Applicants' undersigned representative thanks Examiner Zhen for the thoughtful courtesies and kind treatment afforded during the personal interview conducted on February 21, 2008. During the interview, Examiner Zhen and Applicants' representatives discussed the rejection of independent claim 1. This reply reflects the substance of the interview.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5 to 7, 10 to 19, 22 to 24, 27 to 29, 31, 32, 38 to 40, 43 to 45, and 48 to 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,721,779 ("Maffei") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,738,975 ("Yee") and U.S. Patent No. 6,535,855 ("Cahill"). Based on the following remarks, withdrawal of the § 103 rejections and further examination are respectfully requested.

Referring to particular claim language, independent claim 1 recites a computer-implemented method of exchanging information among applications comprising, inter alia, determining a business event type for a common format data object, the business event type representing one or more of a type of function and activity performed by a business, and selecting, from among multiple communication channels defined in an integration hub, a communication channel corresponding to the determined business event type, each of the multiple communication channels defined in the integration hub corresponding to a single business event type and being configured to communicate those

common format data objects in the integration hub that correspond to the single business event type.

Independent claims 18, 28, and 38, although different in scope from claim 1 and each other, recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose, teach or suggest the foregoing features recited by the independent claims. In particular, as discussed in the personal interview of February 21, 2008, neither Maffeis, Yee, Cahill, nor a proper combination of the references is seen to disclose at least the features of determining a business event type for a common format data object, the business event type representing one or more of a type of function and activity performed by a business, and selecting, from among multiple communication channels defined in an integration hub, a communication channel corresponding to the determined business event type, each of the multiple communication channels defined in the integration hub corresponding to a single business event type and being configured to communicate those common format data objects in the integration hub that correspond to the single business event type.

Based on the discussion in the personal interview conducted on February 21, 2008 independent claims 1, 18, 28, and 38 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. In particular, as indicated in the Office Action, "Maffeis and Yee do not teach determining an event type associated with the common format data object, [or] selecting, from among multiple communication channels each corresponding to a specific event type, a communication channel corresponding to the determined event type." Office Action of December 12, 2007 at page 5. Instead, the Office Action relies on Cahill for these features.

Cahill, however, is not seen to disclose determining a business event type for a common format data object, the business event type representing one or more of a type of function and activity performed by a business, and selecting, from among multiple communication channels defined in an integration hub, a communication channel corresponding to the determined business event type, each of the multiple communication channels defined in the integration hub corresponding to a single business event type and being configured to communicate those common format data objects in the integration hub that correspond to the single business event type, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Specifically, in the Cahill system, banking/financial information alerts are sent to customers over various, different communication

channels (i.e., various, different communication modalities, such as a beeper, a fax, a PDA, etc.). See Cahill at col. 9, lines 37-55 and FIGs 14A to 14H. In sending a banking/financial information alert to a particular user, the Cahill system selects a communication modality (e.g., a beeper, a fax, a PDA, etc.) with which to send the alert to the user based on preferences set by the user for receiving alerts. See Cahill at col. 5, line 61 through col. 6, line 13. In doing so, the Cahill system does not determine a business event type for the alert and select a communication channel that corresponds to the business event type determined for the alert, nor does the Cahill system select a communication channel defined in an integration hub from among multiple communication channels, each defined in the integration hub and corresponding to a single business event type. Rather, in sending alerts, the Cahill system selects, based on user preference, a general-purpose communication modality that is not defined in an integration hub to correspond to the single business event type determined for the alert. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of amended independent claims 1, 18, 28, and 38 and submit that amended independent claims 1, 18, 28, and 38 are allowable.

The other rejected claims and new claims in the application are each dependent on these independent claims and are thus believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each claim is deemed to define additional aspects of the disclosure, however, the individual consideration of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, objection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the reference, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Since the amendments made herein have been made solely in an effort to expedite advancement of this case, the Applicants

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reserves the right to prosecute the rejected claims in further prosecution of this or related applications.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance and such action is courteously solicited.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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